



3.2 World War II

1930-1963



1930s: Militarism returns to Europe with a vengeance!!



Militarism On the Rise

Faced with the Great Depression, people around the world gave their support to fascist and militaristic dictators who promised to rebuild the economy.

Fascism

- ✧ An ultra-conservative philosophy that glorifies the military and considers the power of the nation more important than individual rights.
- ✧ Fascist dictators prohibit free speech and label all political opposition as treason.
- ✧ Fascists of the 1930s often gave speeches about returning the nation to former glory days of empire.
- ✧ Examples include Hitler in Germany, Mussolini in Italy, and Franco in Spain.

Japanese Expansion



1930 - Japanese generals wiped out recent experiments with democracy and promised to rebuild the nation's economy.

1931 - Japan, under the rule of **Emperor Hirohito**, invaded Manchuria to obtain land & resources for the island nation.

1937 - Japan launched a full-scale invasion of China & began to acquire other Pacific islands. The League of Nations failed to take action.

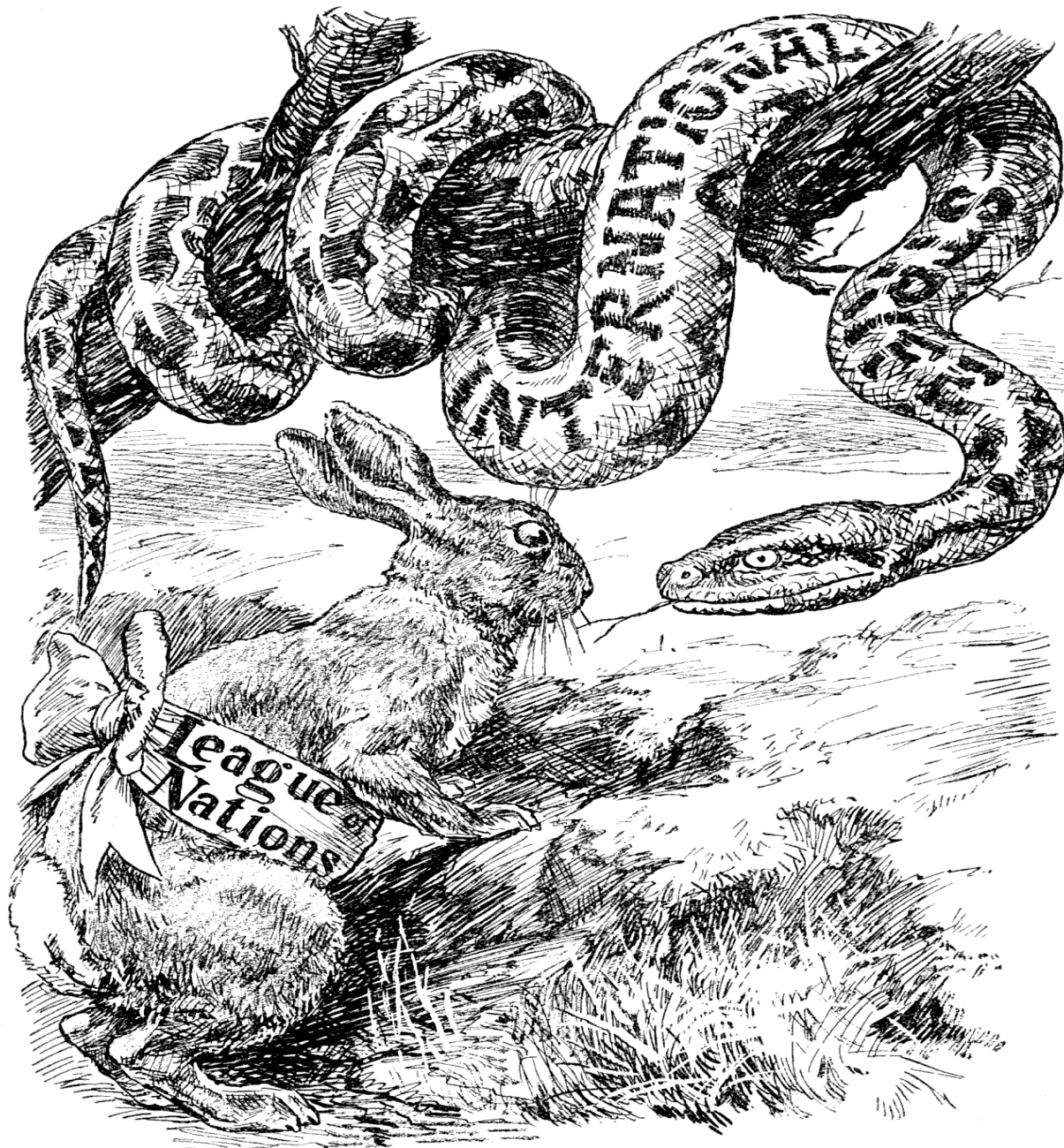
Italian Expansion



In Italy, **Benito Mussolini** gathered support of conservatives and the military and established the Fascist Party.

Soon he obtained dictatorial control over Italy & began to invade Africa in an attempt to rebuild a great Roman empire.

1935 - As Italian forces moved into Ethiopia, the League of Nations was unwilling to stop him.



German Expansion



1933 - **Adolf Hitler** obtained total control over Germany & began an aggressive foreign policy in Europe.

1936 - Hitler moved German troops into the Rhineland on the border of France in violation of the Treaty of Versailles.

1938 - Hitler annexed Austria & proclaimed the Sudetenland, in Czechoslovakia, part of the **Third Reich** (third German empire).

German Expansion

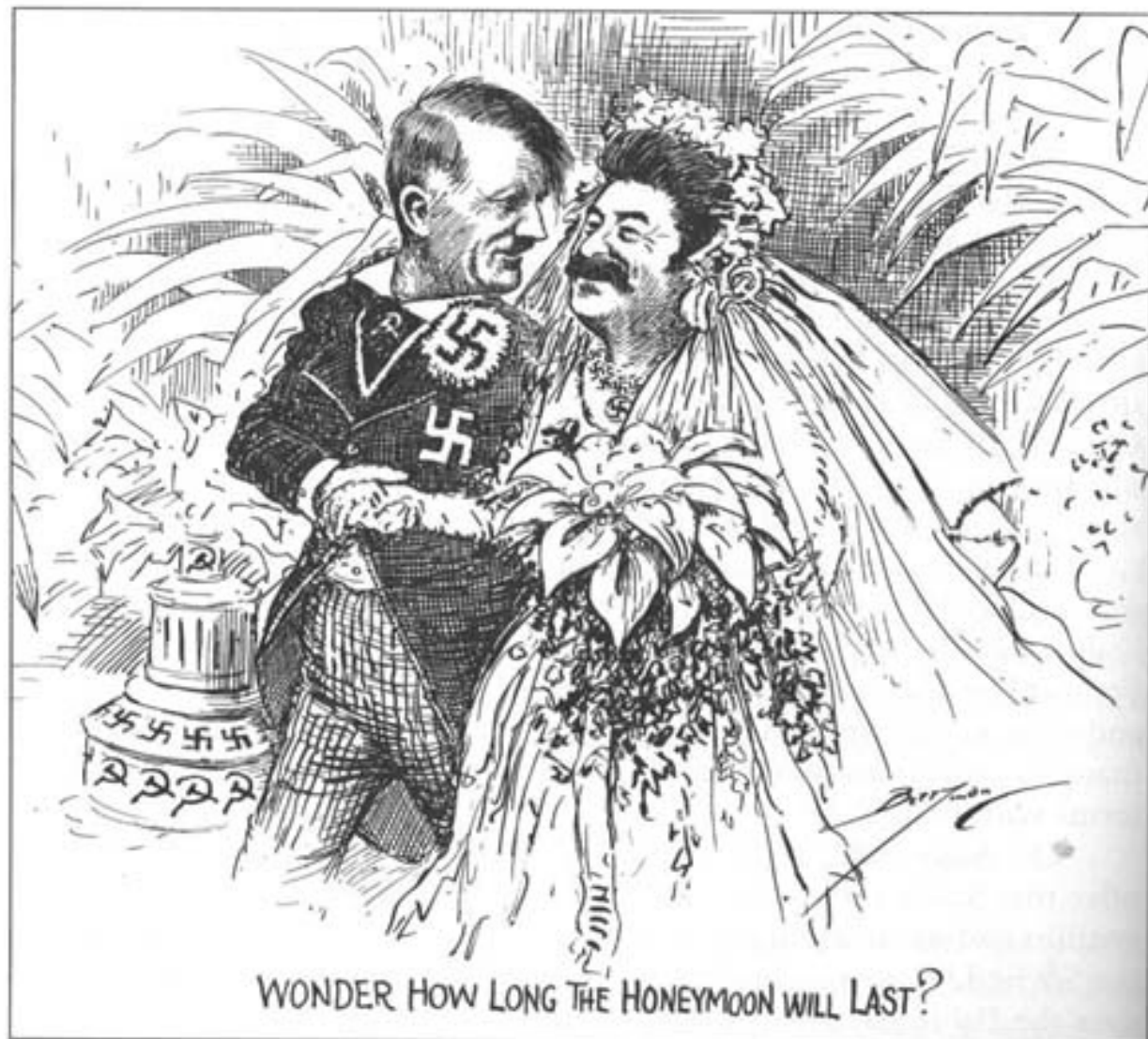


1938 - Britain & France signed the **Munich Pact** with Hitler. They would not interfere with the grab for Sudetenland if that would be the last aggressive move.

This policy of giving into aggressive demands in order to keep the peace is known as **appeasement**.

1939 - After signing the Nazi-Soviet Non-aggression Pact with Russia, Germany invaded Poland.

Two days later, Britain & France declared war.



Nazi-Soviet Non-Aggression Pact:

Germany & Soviet Union agreed not to fight & to divide Poland



Poland was divided, prompting Britain & France to declare war.

What Side Is Russia On?



Joseph Stalin had taken control of the Communist Party in the Soviet Union.

Stalin was a totalitarian dictator, meaning he wanted total control - even over how people felt and thought.

Stalin was the *political* opposite of fascist dictators like Hitler & Mussolini, but his tactics - like using secret police to silence opposition - were the same.

He was totalitarian, but not a fascist because fascists *hate* communism. It was only a matter of time before Germany & Russia were fighting.



British Prime Minister Chamberlain in **1938**:
Munich Pact appeased Germany's demand for Sudetenland in Czechoslovakia. He declared it to be a "peace for our time."

British Prime Minister **Winston Churchill** in **1940**:
"We shall never surrender!"



Isolationism After WWI

After World War I, Americans wanted nothing more to do with war.

At the Washington Naval Conference, the US, Britain and Japan agreed to limit the size of their navies to avoid conflict.

The US and France signed the **Kellogg-Briand Pact** in 1928 to outlaw war except in self-defense.

The US wanted to avoid war, but was not willing to join the League of Nations to enforce a “no war” policy.





From Isolation to Intervention

1935-1937 - Italy, Germany, & Japan become aggressive. **Neutrality Acts** forbade US companies from selling war materials or providing loans to countries at war. FDR was later able to add a “cash and carry” exception so that Britain & France could send ships to the US to purchase supplies.

1937 - FDR delivered his **Quarantine Speech**, arguing that the US should move away from its isolationist policy. Germany, Italy & Japan should be quarantined before the aggression spread.

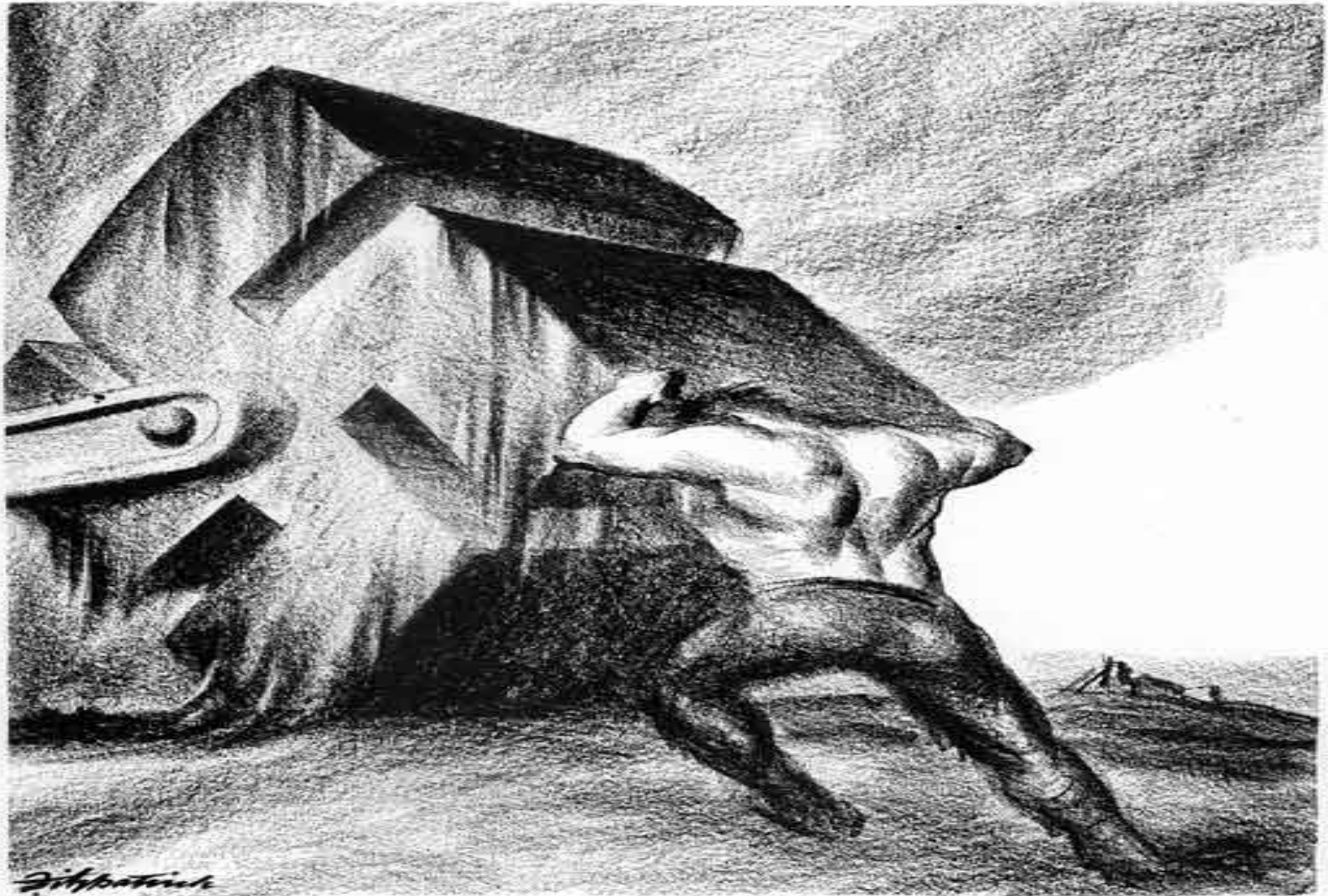


From Isolation to Intervention

1939 - Germany invaded Poland. Britain & France declared war on Germany. Italy declared war on Britain & France. World war began again.

1940 - German **blitzkrieg** technique allowed Hitler to quickly take over Poland, Norway, Denmark & France. Hitler then set his sights on Britain.

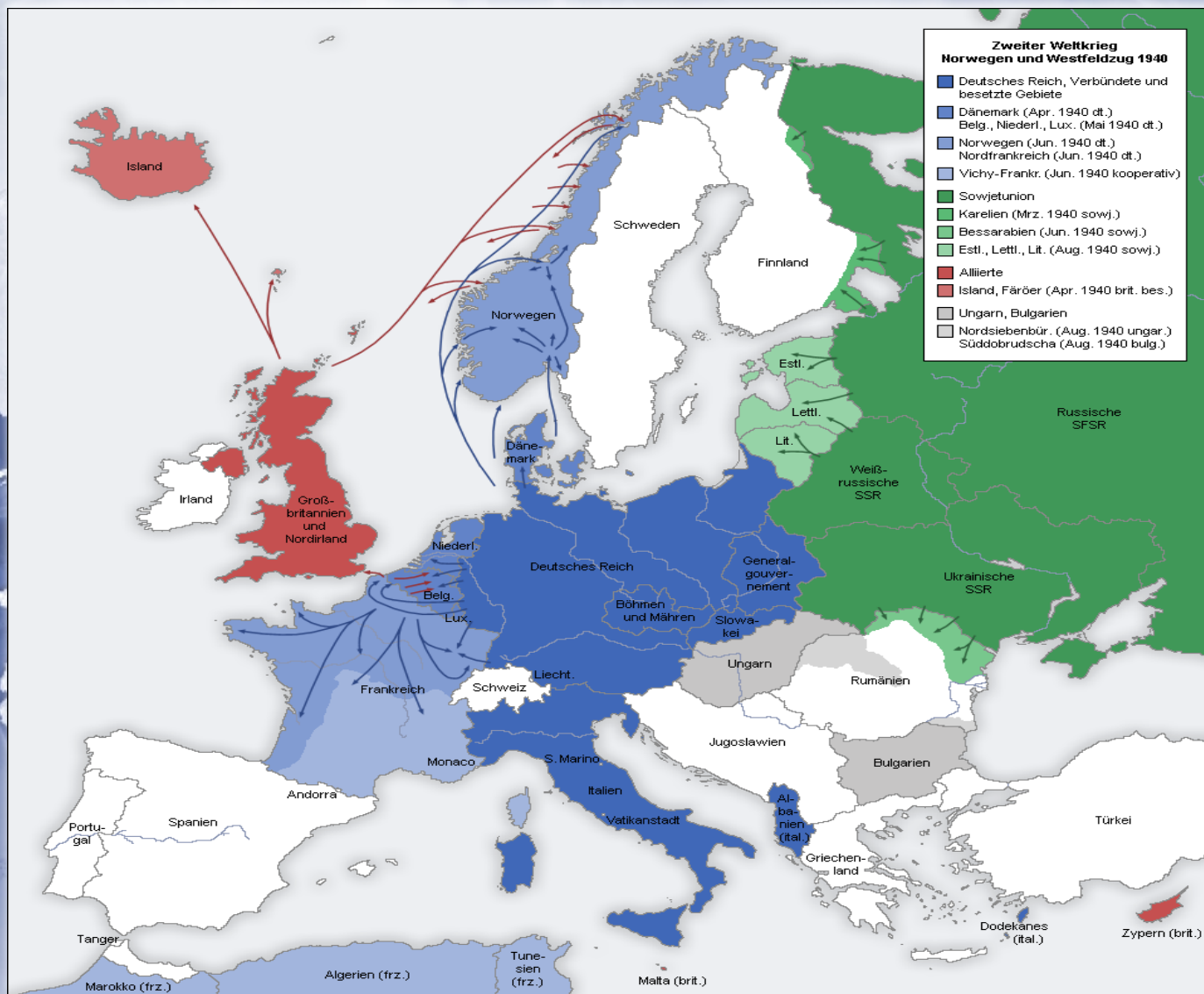
During the **Battle of Britain**, German planes bombed British cities for months, but Germans were unable to invade England.



SATURDAY, JUNE 8, 1940.

MAN AGAINST THE MACHINE.

Who can stop the blitzkrieg?!



With the Soviet Union neutralized (green), Germany & its allies control most of Europe by 1940 (blue). Only Britain remains (red).

I WAS WEAK AND RUN-DOWN

I had circles under my eyes. My
tail drooped. I had a foul case
of Appeasement

... THEN
I LEARNED ABOUT

“GUTS”

that amazing remedy
For all Mankind's Woes

NOW

I AM TAKING IT DAILY
and today

**I FEEL STRONG
ENOUGH TO**

PUNCH MISTER HITLER RIGHT IN THE SNOOT!



BEFORE



AFTER

© 1941 Dr. Seuss

... and the Wolf chewed up the children and spit out their bones ...
But those were Foreign Children and it really didn't matter."



From Isolation to Intervention



Roosevelt: US must be the
“arsenal of democracy”

Jan 1941 - FDR was less willing to remain neutral. In his State of the Union address, Roosevelt outlined **Four Freedoms** that all people have a right to: 1) freedom of speech, 2) freedom of religion, 3) freedom from want, 4) freedom from fear.

Mar 1941 - End of neutrality. Congress passed the **Lend-Lease Act** to allow the US to sell war materials and lend money to nations at war. German U-boats began attacking US ships.

Dec 7, 1941 - Japan attacked **Pearl Harbor**. US officially declared war. Within days, the US was at war with Japan, Germany & Italy.



Pearl Harbor: “a day that will live in infamy”



Why Pearl Harbor?



Douglas MacArthur

US Army Commander
Pacific Theater
(Japan & the Pacific Islands)

Fighting was fierce in the Pacific. By 1942, Japan defeated the US in the Philippines. MacArthur retreated to regroup.



Major Turning Point:
Japan Goes On Defensive!!



Battle at Midway, 1942

With the American naval base on Midway Island at risk, Admiral Chester Nimitz had to defeat Japan.

After breaking the Japanese code, Nimitz was able to deliver a surprise attack.

Deploying from aircraft carriers, swift planes bombed the Japanese navy.

Japan went on the defensive for the first time.

Stalingrad, 1943

Faced with winter conditions in Russia, unprepared German soldiers surrendered. Germans go on the defensive, and Soviets take the offensive for the first time since Hitler attacked Russia in the summer of 1941.



Major Turning Point:
Soviets defeat Germany!!



Major Turning Point:
US Defeats Axis Powers in Africa!!



George Patton, 1943
US Army General
European Theater
(Africa, Europe & Russia)

Germans surrendered in
North Africa. Allied forces
moved North toward Italy.



“Old Blood & Guts”

Major Turning Point:
No Negotiations!!



Casablanca Conference

Jan 1943

Roosevelt & Churchill met in Casablanca, Morocco to discuss strategy. They declared that the Allies will only accept unconditional surrender.



Major Turning Point:
Allies Prepare for D-Day!!



Tehran
Conference

Dec 1943

Stalin, Roosevelt & Churchill (“the Big Three”) met in Tehran to discuss recent successes in Africa. They decided that it was time for a full-scale invasion of Europe. The Allies would now try to take back German-occupied France.

Major Turning Point: Allies Take Back France!!

D-Day Invasion

(Operation
Overlord)
Jun 1944

Allied forces
cross the
English
Channel & land
on the beaches
of Normandy,
France.

Paris was
liberated from
the Germans by
August.





Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces, General Dwight D. Eisenhower, speaks with US paratroopers on June 5, 1944.

Major Turning Point: Last German Offensive!!



Battle of the Bulge

Jan 1945

As the Allies pushed the Germans out of France and toward the German heartland, Germany made one last attempt to break through Allied lines on the Western Front.

The shape (not pictured) of the attempt to penetrate the Allied lines would give this battle its nickname.

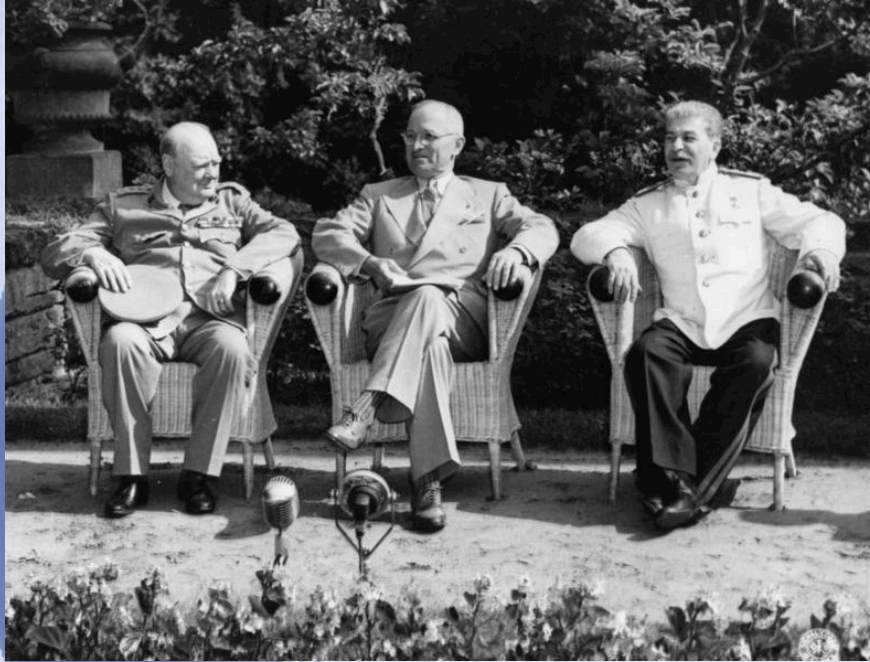
Major Turning Point: Germans Surrender!!



V-E Day
May 8, 1945

About one month
after Roosevelt's
death (and one
week after Hitler's
suicide), Germany
surrendered.

Major Turning Point: Truman & Stalin Collide!!



The Big Three met in Germany to discuss the end of the war. The US now had a new president (Truman) and Britain a new prime minister.

Potsdam Conference

Jul 1945

Germany was divided up into four zones: US, France, Britain & USSR. The three western powers agreed that they would soon give up control of their zone and establish an independent, democratic Germany.

Stalin was not so easy-going. He wanted a buffer zone and was determined to keep control of all of Eastern Europe.

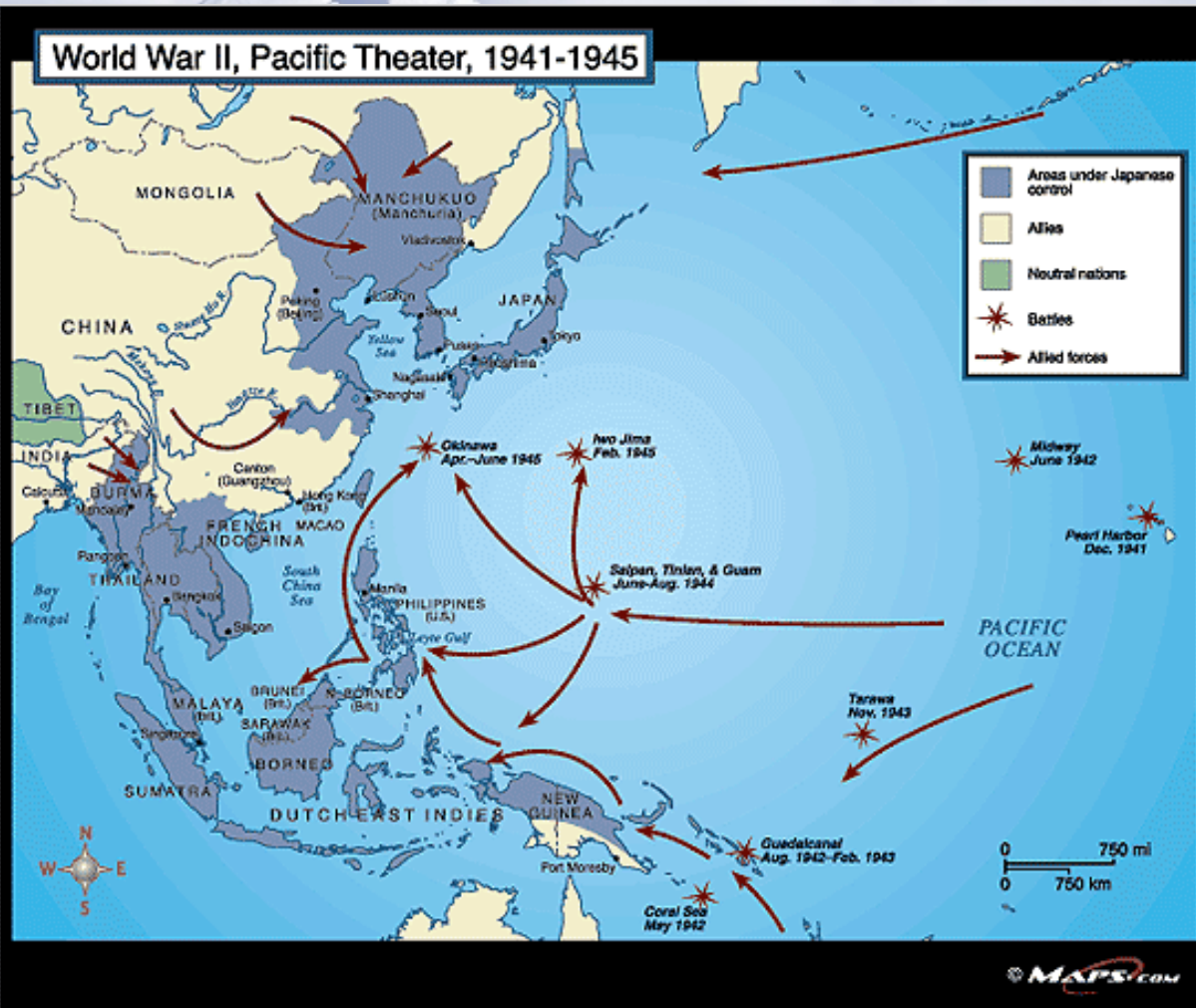
So began the Cold War....

Major Turning Point:
Success in the Pacific!!

Island Hopping 1943-1945

General MacArthur returns to the Pacific. MacArthur & Nimitz strategically “leapfrog” the Pacific Islands, taking some but leaving others, on their way toward Japan.

This strategy allowed the US to bypass heavily fortified Japanese islands and maintain an element of surprise.



Major Turning Point:
Victory on Japanese Home Turf!!

Iwo Jima Feb 1945

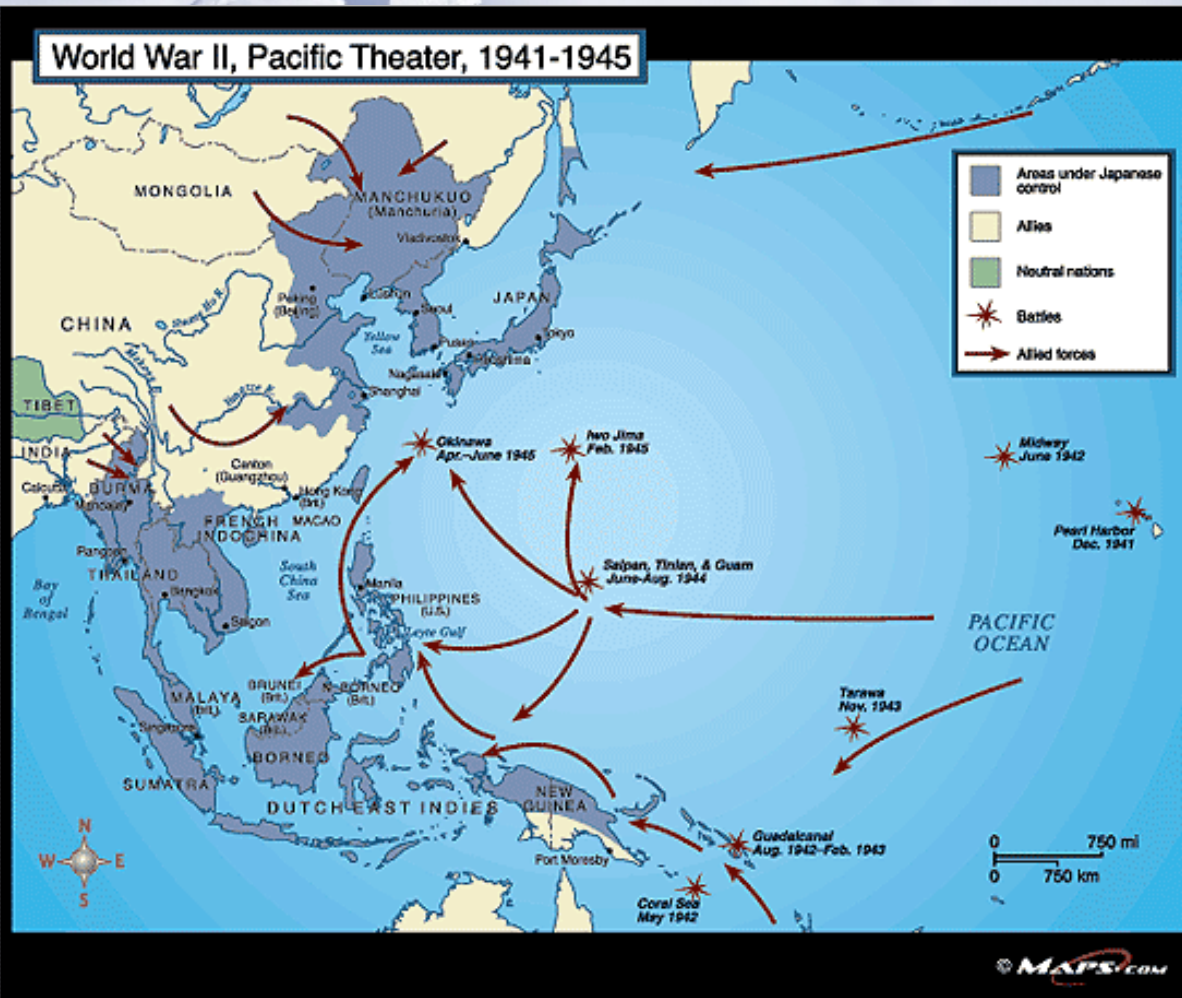


First US attack on
Japanese home
territory. Some of
the fiercest fighting
in the Pacific.
18,000 Japanese
fought until there
was only 200 or so
left to take prisoner.

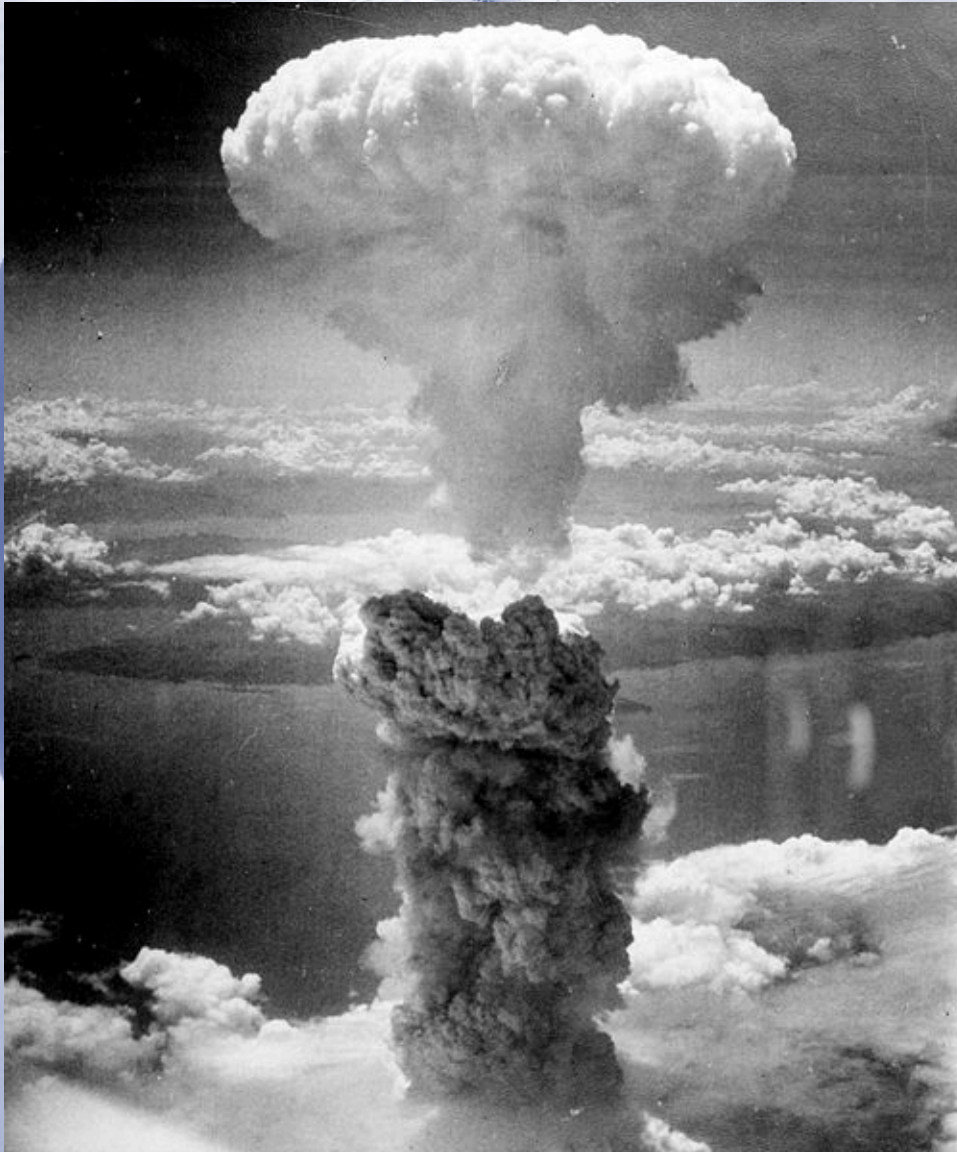
Major Turning Point: US Ready for Mainland Invasion!!

Okinawa Jun 1945

Three-month battle over the Japanese island closest to the main island. 50,000 US and 100,000 Japanese casualties. Almost one-fourth of the civilian population died. US wanted to use Okinawa as a base for attack on the main island. Instead, the atomic bombings brought Japanese surrender.



Major Turning Point:
V-J Day - Japanese Surrender



The Bomb

Aug 1945

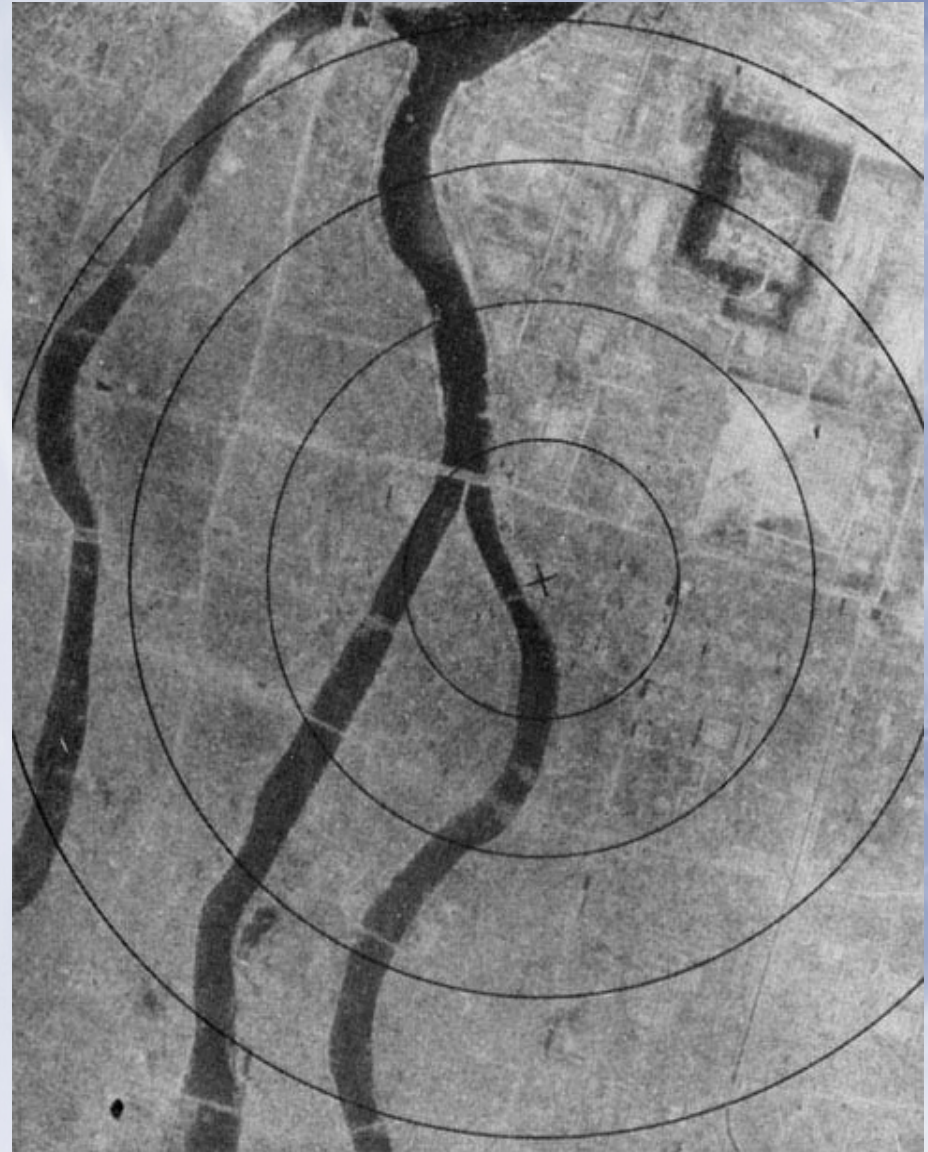
While at the Potsdam Conference, Truman learned about the first successful testing of the atomic bomb by the **Manhattan Project** that had been set up by FDR under **J. Robert Oppenheimer**.

Truman authorized the bombings of Hiroshima & Nagasaki in an attempt to avoid an invasion of Japan.

Hiroshima

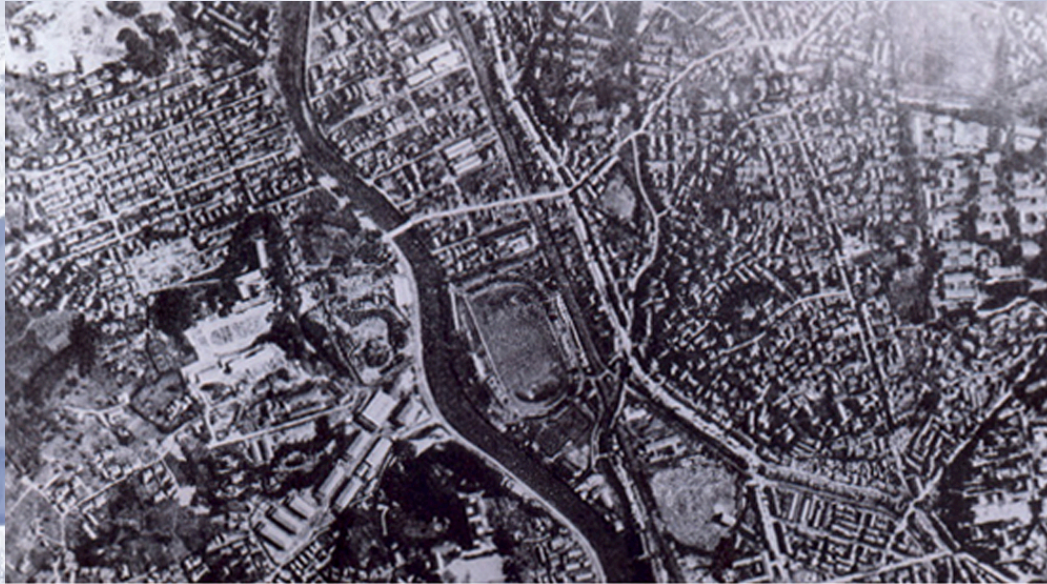


Before

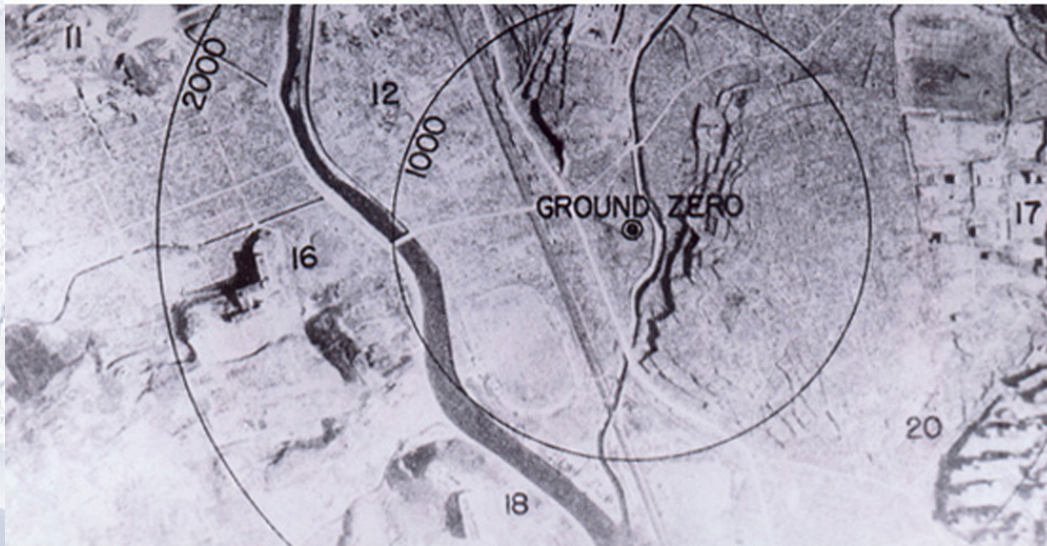


After

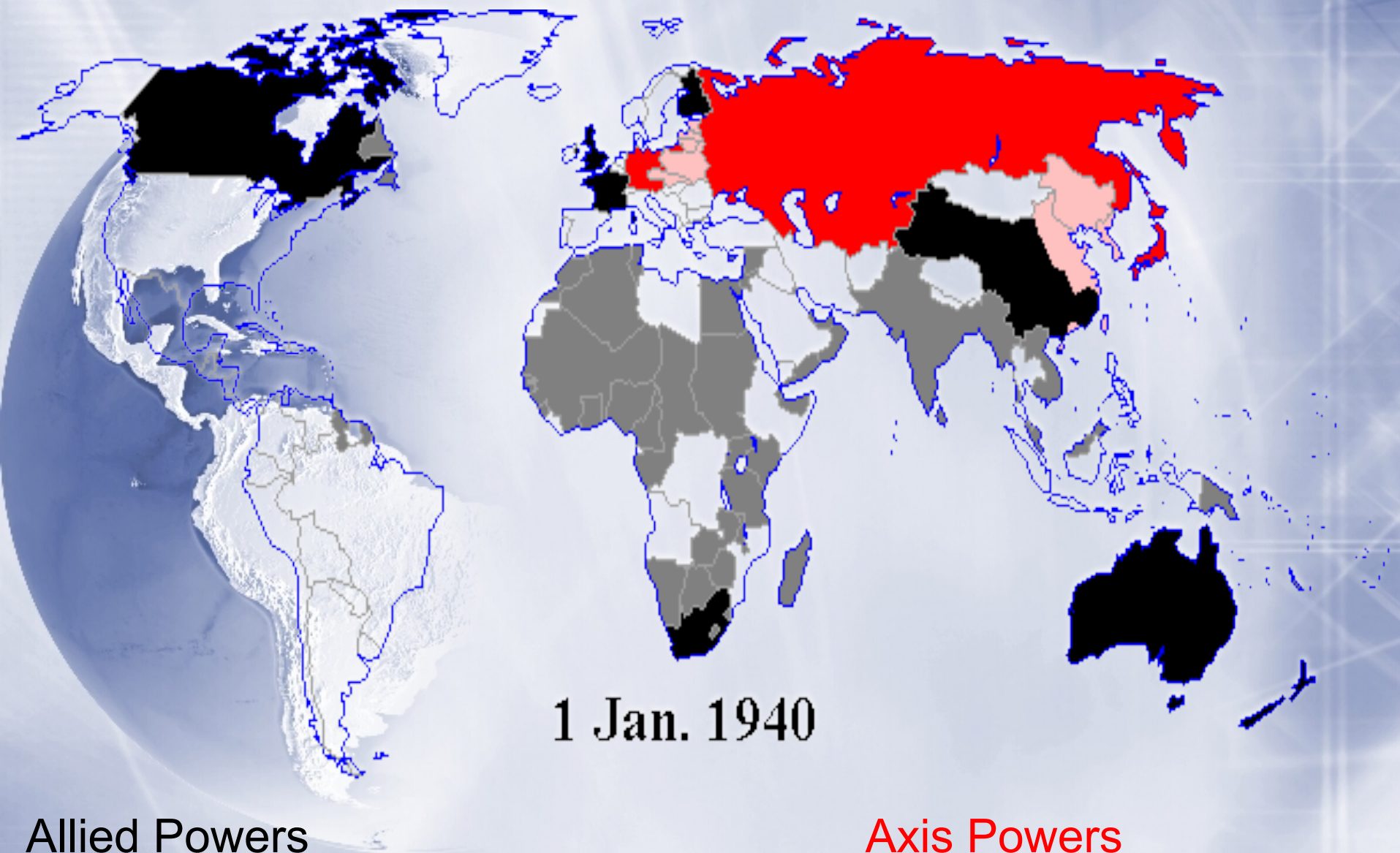
Nagasaki



Before



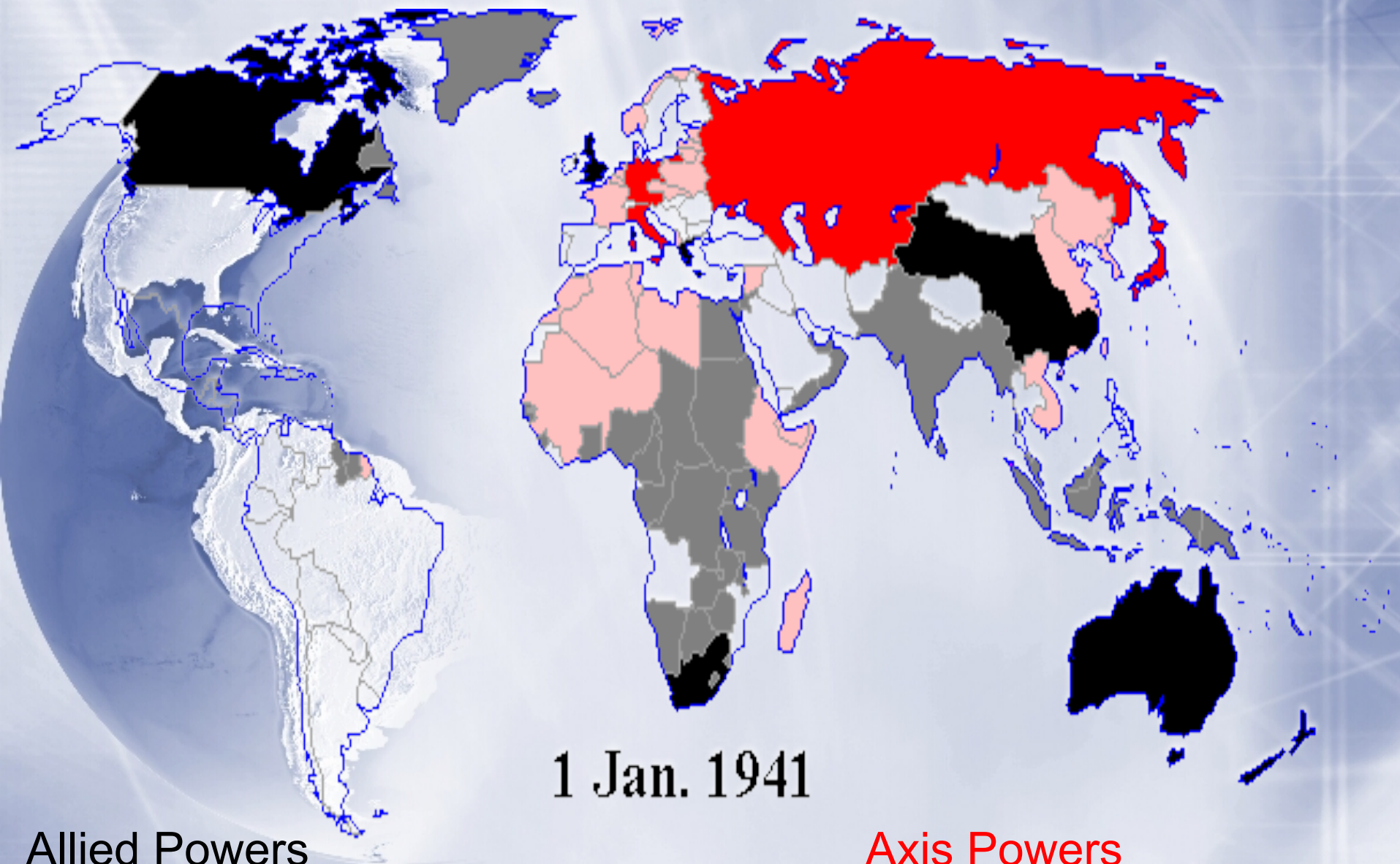
After



1 Jan. 1940

Allied Powers
Allied-controlled territory

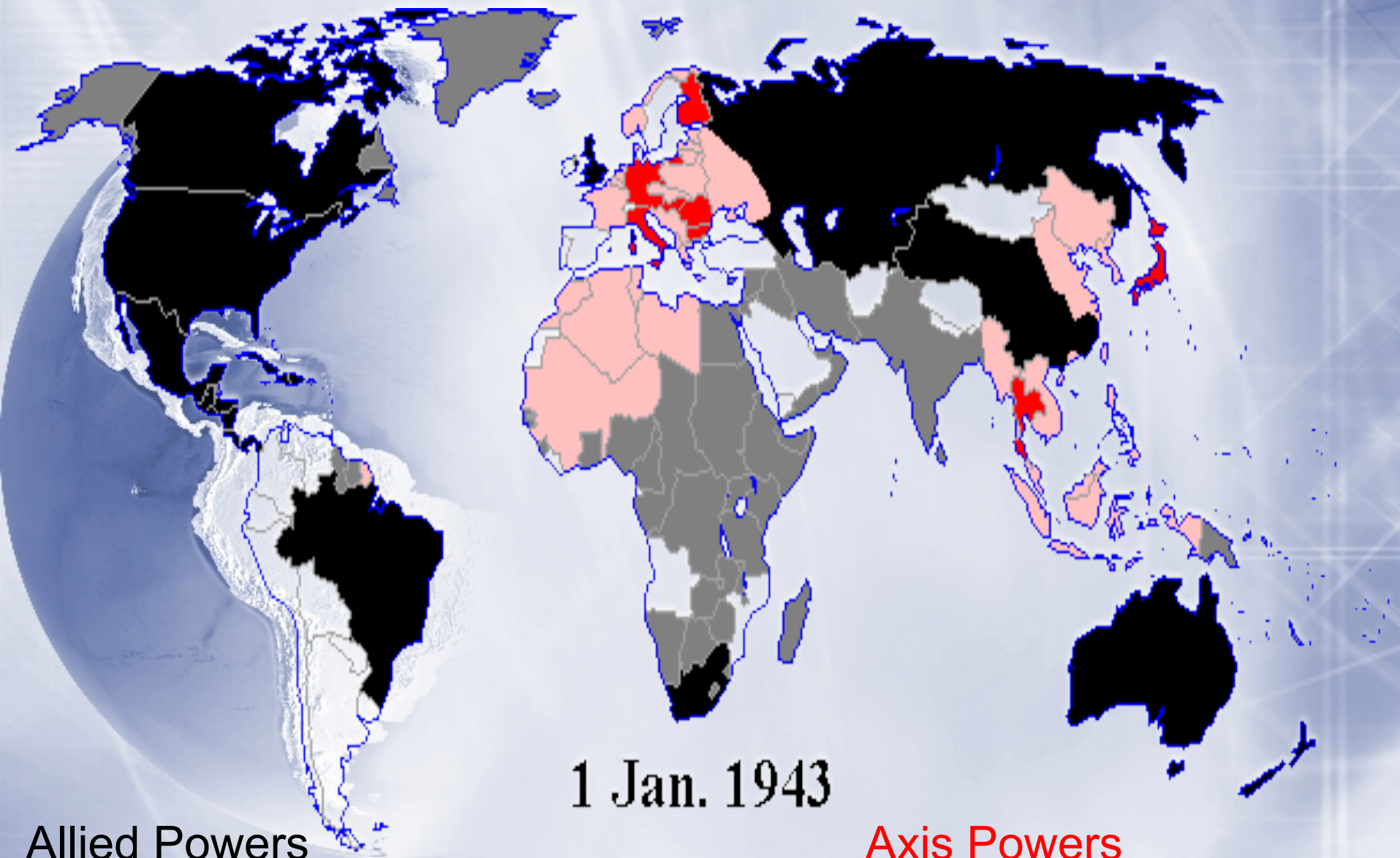
Axis Powers
Axis-controlled territory



1 Jan. 1941

Allied Powers
Allied-controlled territory

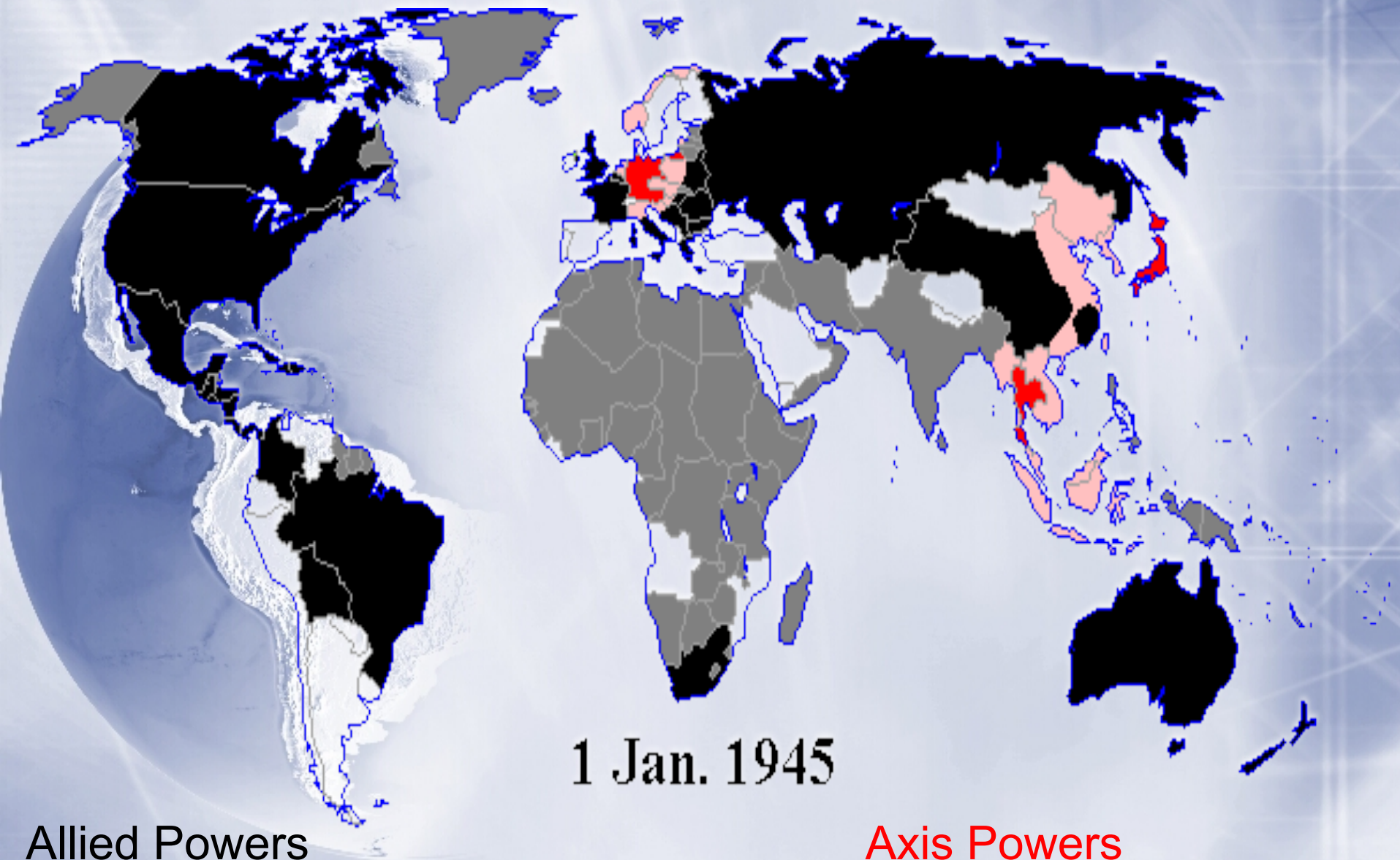
Axis Powers
Axis-controlled territory



1 Jan. 1943

Allied Powers
Allied-controlled territory

Axis Powers
Axis-controlled territory



1 Jan. 1945

Allied Powers
Allied-controlled territory

Axis Powers
Axis-controlled territory